Shortage of Merchant Navy Personnel in the Shipping Industry

850. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:
SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the recent press reports regarding shortage of merchant navy personnel to man the Indian ships, posing a serious problem to the shipping industry; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to augment the training facility for such personnel and otherwise to meet the shortage?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Maritime Training facilities for Merchant Navy Officers to meet the statutory requirements of Indian flag vessels are adequate. For the training of officers, work on setting up a new shore based academy at New Bombay as a replacement for the present training ship "Rajendra" has already commenced.

The following important steps have been taken by Government to meet the shortage of merchant navy officers:

(1) Intake of cadets for training in pre-sea training institutions viz. T. S. "Rajendra" for Nautical Officers and D.M.E.T. for Engineer Officers has been increased to their full capacity from 1988 onwards.

(2) Special Scheme for training Science and Engineering Graduates at Nautical Officers has been sanctioned to the Shipping Corporation of India.

(3) Indian Shipping Companies have been advised to consider recruting and training Graduate Engineers.

(4) Indian Shipping Companies are permitted to take direct entry deck apprentices and workshop trained apprentices.

(5) Issue of Continuous Discharge Certificate (CDC) has been restricted to officers who want to join an Indian ship. CDC will be refused to those who initially desire to join a foreign flag vessel except in those cases where the officers have been trained by the agency companies at their cost.

(6) The Director General of Shipping has given special dispensation for temporary period in apropriate cases from rules/S.T.C.W. Convention which prescribe statutory manning requirements.

(7) Shipping companies have been given special dispensation by permitting them to employ officers above the age of 60 years subject to their medical fitness for sea service, for a period of 6 months which could be extended, subject to a maximum limit of 62 years .

भारत और पाकिस्तान के प्रधान मंत्रियों के बीच वार्ता

851. **श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह** : क्या **विदेश मंत्री** यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि क्या भारत और पाकिस्तान के प्रधान मंत्रियों के बीच वार्ता संबंधी कोई प्रस्ताव सरकार के विचाराधीन है ?

विदेश मंत्री (श्री इन्द्र कुमार गुजराल): ऐसा कोई प्रस्ताव सरकार के विचाराधीन नहीं है ।

प्रसार भारतीय विधेयक का तैयार किया जाना

852. **श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह** : क्या **सूचना और प्रसारण** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) प्रसार भारती विधेयक के तैयार किए जाने संबंधी प्रक्रिया के कब तक पूरी हो जाने की सम्भावना है; और